

Exeter Fire District

(November 10, 2005)

Call to Order

Chairman Peter Lacouture called the November 10th meeting of the Exeter Fire District to order at 7:02pm. Present were Commissioners Vergano, Lacouture, Wilbur, Nievera, Swanson, Walker and Reed. There were three members of the public in attendance.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Previous Month's Minutes

Ms. Vergano moved (Mr. Wilbur second) acceptance of the minutes of the October meeting as corrected. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Nievera noted that corrected copies of the minutes had been circulated to all board members earlier in the week.

Treasurer's Report

The opening balance for the period is \$332,417.27. Ms. Vergano reports that receipts totaling \$72,462.20 and checks and payments totaling \$176,040.84, leave a cleared balance of \$228,838.63. There is,

as of 11/08, an uncleared register balance of \$227,284.36.

Communications

Mr. Lacouture is in receipt of a letter from the Labor Board concerning the organization effort on behalf of the Exeter Rescue personnel. This will be discussed in executive session at a future meeting.

Mr. Nievera reported receiving a 941 form from the RI Div. of Taxation, which was given to Ms. Vergano. He also reported receiving a letter from Lowell Woodmansee, of East shore Drive, noting the lack of assistance by the local fire company during the recent period of rainy weather. Mr. Nievera will respond to this letter and forward it and the original letter to Chief Franklin. Mr. Nievera further reports receiving a copy of the response written by Chiefs Franklin and Caito to a letter written by Mr. Gary Parker of Michigan and John Murphy Ln. concerning the fire and rescue coverage for his neighborhood on the western side of town.

Mr. Nievera stated that he had sent letters of thanks to Senator Breene for his help in securing a legislative grant for the district as well as Mr. Ted Ives and Mr. Carl Hagenstein for their involvement in obtaining several hundred dollars worth of battery back-up equipment for the public safety organizations. Other letters of thanks included those to Hal Morgan, Elizabeth Reed, Ms. Vergano and Mr. Nievera for their donations of office furniture and equipment to be utilized in the district tax office.

Old Business

Mr. Nievera reported that as of 11/09 there were approximately 300 first quarter delinquent accounts. This represents \$75,727.12 in payments and interest. A more accurate figure will be available at the end of the second collection period, as there remain those who bring their accounts current. He will send the final figures to all board members after they have been compiled.

Ms. Vergano reported on the abatements granted by the district. To date changes in valuations and exemptions of \$1,007,661 have caused an abatement amount of \$1,430.88 to be realized by the district.

Ms. Vergano stated that there has been no activity in her cost consolidation committee.

Mr. Nievera reported that he has not met with the members of his grant committee, but has sent for a DVD containing sample grants proposals. He hopes to meet by the first of the year.

Mr. Wilbur hopes to have a meeting sometime in December for his capital expense committee.

A lengthy discussion pertaining to ISO followed. Mr. Lacouture reported having received an e-mail from an ISO consultant named David Doudy (www.isoslayer.com). Town Councilman Robt. Johnson cautioned that the communication received by Mr. Lacouture contained no mention of what would be done for the money spent. He

suggested obtaining a specific list of the items to be addressed prior to entering into any agreement. Mr. Swanson would like to contact ISO to ask them what we need to successfully complete an audit. It was explained by Mr. Reed that ISO does not work that way. You prepare and they audit.

Ms. Vergano asked who would assume the duties from Chief Kettelle upon his exit from the organization. She felt it would be important to include Chief Kettelle in an ISO planning meeting prior to his departure. A member of Exeter #1 explained their election process that would take place in December. Ms. Vergano stressed the need to have specific goals and objectives written down in order to create the action plan needed to improve our rating. In addition, she stressed the importance of producing a straight-forward, time-specific ISO plan at the annual meeting in April 2006 to address the rating improvement promise made to the taxpayers. Mr. Wilbur offered the advantage of having a plan and being able to follow it to its end. Discussions continued concerning the fact that costs would be incurred in the pursuit of the rating improvement, and that we would be wise to allocate the limited funds where they could do the most for us. It was further agreed that:

- (a) Mr. Nievera would contact Chief Stanley (Hope Valley) in regard to ISO consultants.
- (b) Ms. Vergano would contact ISO in search of consultants.
- (c) Mr. Reed would search for additional consultants through his own contacts as well as via the internet.
- (d) Mr. Lacouture would contact David Doudy of ISO Slayer to receive

a clearer definition of the specific services provided with corresponding costs.

(e) A meeting solely for the purpose of ISO would be held on December 1st of this year.

Mr. Nievera moved (Mr. Reed second) the treasurer send our share of the high-speed internet service to Exeter #1. This check is for half of the cost of the wireless router and our share of the monthly fees and is not to exceed \$215.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lacouture noted that the fire district was exempt from the newly enacted tax freeze.

New Business

The terms and appointments for inclusion on the board were discussed. The terms of Mr. Lacouture and Mr. Nievera were originally set for a period of one year and will be the first to expire.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on December 1st. Mr. Nievera will confirm and notify all board members as to the availability of the library meeting room.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Nievera, Clerk

Exeter Fire District